

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A medical image handling system comprising:

- a) a monitor for displaying a medical image;
- b) an input device for inputting an image reading report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor; and
- c) a processor configured to process a control of judging presence or absence of the image reading report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor, and restricting a change of displaying the medical image[[,]] in case the image reading report is judged absent.

Claim 2. (previously presented): A medical image handling system according to claim 1, wherein said processor judges presence or absence of the image reading report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor when the medical image displayed on said monitor is changed.

Claim 3. (previously presented): A medical image handling system according to claim 1, wherein:

the processor requests an input of the image reading report, in case the image reading report is judged absent.

Claim 4. (canceled).

Claim 5. (previously presented): A medical image handling system according to claim 3, wherein said processor measures a time elapsing from the display of the medical image on said monitor and judges presence or absence of the image reading report corresponding to the displayed medical image when the measured time exceeds a predetermined time.

Claim 6. (currently amended): A medical image handling system comprising:

- a) a monitor for displaying a medical image;
- b) an input device for inputting an image reading report corresponding to the medical image displayed on said monitor; and
- c) a processor configured to process a control of judging presence or absence of the image reading report corresponding to the displayed medical image and to inputting an image reading report which is set to no indicates absence of observation instead of an image reading report input by the input device, in case the image reading report is judged absent and the medical image displayed on the monitor is changed, or in case a predetermined time is elapsed.

Claims 7 and 8. (canceled).

Claim 9. (previously presented): A medical image handling method comprising:

- a) a step of displaying a medical image;
- b) a step of judging presence or absence of an image reading report corresponding to the displayed medical image; and
- c) a step of restricting a change of displaying the displayed medical image, in case the image reading report is judged absent.

Claim 10. (previously presented): A medical image handling method according to claim 9, wherein said step of judging presence or absence of the image reading report is executed in the case that the displayed medical image is changed.

Claim 11. (previously presented): A medical image handling method according to claim 9, wherein, in said judging step, a time elapsing from the display of the medical image in said displaying step is measured, and presence or absence of the image reading report is judged in case the measured time exceeds a predetermined time.

Claim 12. (previously presented): A medical image handling method according to claim 9, further comprising a step of requesting an input of the image reading report corresponding to the displayed medical image, in case the image reading report is judged absent.

Claims 13 and 14. (canceled).

Claim 15. (currently amended): A medical image handling method comprising:

- a) a step of displaying a medical image on a monitor;
- b) a step of judging presence or absence of an image reading report corresponding to the displayed medical image from an input device; and
- c) a step of inputting an image reading report which is ~~set to no~~ indicates

absence of observation instead of an image reading report input by the input device, in case the image reading report is judged absent and the medical image displayed on the monitor is changed, or in case a predetermined time is elapsed.

Claims 16 and 17. (canceled).

Claim 18. (previously presented): A medical image handling method according to claim 15, wherein the image reading report inputted by said inputting step includes either of a name of an image reading person or an image display time.

Claims 19 - 51. (canceled).